REMARKS

Claim 1-84 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner, in the third item of the Office Action, indicates that claims 1, 10-17, 34-35, 37-38, 42, 51-58, 75-76, 78-79, and 83-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujiyama et al. (US 6,678,286) in view of Kohno et al (US 2003/0048356).

In response to the Examiner's indication, claims 1, 34, 35, 42, 75, 76, and 84 have been amended as set forth above to incorporate the limitation defined in claim 83. Accordingly, claim 83 has been cancelled.

The amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Fujiyama et al. in view of Kohno et al. for the reason as described hereinlater.

The constituent features of the image transmitting and receiving system defined in the amended claim 1 are as follows:

(A) a plurality of data transmission apparatuses each for transmitting one or more transmission data portions each generated as a result of compressing and encoding one or more moving image signals taken by respective camera units; and

(B) a plurality of data receiving apparatuses each for receiving said one or more transmission data portions transmitted by said data transmission apparatuses through a network,

(A) each of said data transmission apparatuses including:

(a1) a plurality of camera units each for taking a moving picture of an object;

(a2) an image inputting unit operatively connected with said camera units for operating one or more said camera units to input one or more moving pictures taken by said one or more camera units to be converted to one or more moving image signals;

(a3) an image synthesizing unit for selectively passing through said moving image signal and synthesizing more than one moving image signal to generate a synthesized moving image signal on the basis of said one or more moving image signals converted by said image inputting unit;

(a4) a compressing and encoding unit for compressing and encoding said moving image signal passed through by said image synthesizing unit when said image synthesizing unit passes through one moving image signal and compressing and encoding said synthesized moving image signal generated by said image synthesizing unit when said image synthesizing unit synthesizes more than one moving image signal to generate coded moving image signal data;

(a5) a plurality of data transmitting units for inputting said coded moving image signal data generated by said compressing and encoding unit, generating address information about said data receiving apparatuses to which said coded moving image signal data is directed, and attaching said address information to said coded moving

image signal data to generate one or more transmission data portions directed to said respective data receiving apparatuses, the number of said data transmitting units corresponding to the number of data receiving apparatuses to which said coded moving image signal data is directed;

(a6) a transmission line connection control unit for inputting said one or more transmission data portions generated by said data transmitting units, establishing and maintaining one or more line connections between said data transmitting units and respective data receiving apparatuses in accordance with said address information attached in said one or more transmission data portions so as to transmit said one or more transmission data portions through said network to said respective data receiving apparatuses, and generating line connection state information; and

(a7) a transmission control unit for controlling said image inputting unit, said image synthesizing unit, and said transmission line connection control unit in accordance with said line connection state information generated by said transmission line connection control unit;

(B) each of said data receiving apparatuses including:

(b1) a receiving line connection control unit for receiving said one or more transmission data portions transmitted by said respective data transmission apparatuses;

(b2) a plurality of data receiving units for receiving said one or more transmission data portions to reconstruct coded moving image signal data, said receiving line connection control unit operative to establish and maintain one or more line connections between said data receiving units and said respective one or more data transmission apparatuses in accordance with said address information attached in said one or more transmission data portions so as to receive said one or more transmission data portions through said network from said respective one or more data transmission apparatuses;

(b3) a plurality of decompressing and decoding units electrically connected with said respective data receiving units in one-to-one relationship for decompressing and decoding said coded moving image signal data reconstructed by said respective data receiving units to reconstruct one or more moving image signals or synthesized moving image signals;

(b4) an image synthesizing unit for selectively passing through said moving image signal or said synthesized moving image signal and synthesizing more than one moving image signal or synthesized moving image signal to generate a synthesized moving image signal on the basis of said one or more moving image signals or synthesized moving image signals reconstructed by said decompressing and decoding units;

(b5) a data outputting unit for outputting said moving image signal or said synthesized moving image signal passed through by said image synthesizing unit when said image synthesizing unit passes through said moving image signal or said synthesized moving image signal, and outputting said synthesized moving image signal

synthesized by said image synthesizing unit when said image synthesizing unit generates said synthesized moving image signal;

(b6) a monitoring unit having a screen for selectively displaying one moving picture on said screen on the basis of said moving image signal outputted by said data outputting unit, and displaying a plurality of moving pictures on said screen on the basis of said synthesized moving image signal outputted by said data outputting unit;

(b7) an operation unit for inputting an operation instruction therethrough; and

(b8) a receiving control unit for generating an operation request in accordance with said operation instruction inputted by said operation unit, controlling said receiving line connection control unit in accordance with said operation request and said one or more transmission data portions transmitted by said respective one or more data transmission apparatuses, and in which

(a8) each of said data transmitting units of said data transmission apparatus is operative to generate address information about said data transmission apparatus and said data receiving apparatuses to which said coded moving image signal data is directed, and

(b9) said receiving line connection control unit of said data receiving apparatus is operative to establish a line connection between said data transmission apparatuses and said data receiving units on the basis of said address information of said data transmission apparatuses and output said transmission data portions to said data receiving units in the order that said line connections are established.

From the elements, (a5), (a6), (a8), (b2), (b8), and (b9), it will be understood that each of the image receiving apparatus can select one or more data transmission apparatuses to establish and maintain line connections with, and reliably receive the transmission data portions from respective data transmission apparatus based on the address information of the transmission apparatus attached in the transmission data portions, thereby accurately enabling the monitoring unit to display the targeted moving picture thereon.

Fujiyama, on the other hand, discloses a monitoring system having image transmission apparatuses 1-1 to 1-n, image receiving apparatuses 2-1 to 2-m, a digital exchange 3, transfer devices 4-1 to 4-n between the image transmission apparatuses 1-1 to 1-n and the image receiving apparatuses 2-1 to 2-m, digital transmission lines 5-1 to 5-n connecting each of the image transmission apparatuses 1-1 to 1-n to the corresponding transfer devices 4-1 to 4-n (see FIG. 11). All of the image transmission apparatuses 1-1 to 1-n are the same in construction, and each of the image transmission apparatuses 1-1 to 1-n which is composed of a monitoring camera 1a, an image encoder 1b for encoding the image caught by the monitoring camera 1a and outputting the code, and a transmitter 1c for transmitting the coded image data to the digital exchange 3. All of the image receiving apparatuses 2-1 to 2-m are the same in construction and each of the image receiving apparatuses 2-1 to 2-m is composed of an image receiver 2a and a

monitor 2b.

Among other things, Fujiyama, however, fails to disclose the elements (a5), (a6), (a8) forming part of each of the data transmission apparatuses, and the essential constituent elements (b2), (b3), (b8), and (b9) forming part of each of the data receiving apparatuses defined in the amended claim 1. This leads to the fact that the image transmitting and receiving system defined in the amended claim 1 is entirely different in construction from the monitoring system disclosed in the cited reference to Fujiyama et al.

More specifically, Fujiyama teaches that the logical channels are fixedly allocated to the image receiving apparatus but not fixedly allocated to the image transmission apparatuses, as described in column 6, lines 1 to 6 as follows.

"Predetermined logical channels A to D are fixedly allotted to the image receiving apparatuses 51-1 to 51-m, respectively. On the other hand, the logical channels A to D are not fixedly allotted to the image transmission apparatuses 41-1 to 41-n, so that image may be transmitted to any image receiving apparatus through any logical channel."

Fujiyama teaches that the image data is inserted in the positions corresponding to the logical channels fixedly allocated to the image receiving apparatuses in the frame signal transmitted by the image transmission apparatus to the image receiving apparatus as described in column 5, lines 44 to 59 with reference to FIG. 1 as follows.

"FIG. 1 shows the structure of a monitoring system according to the present invention. The reference numeral 31 represents a transmission line for transmitting image data. A plurality of logical channels A to D are set on the transmission line 31. More specifically, a plurality of virtual lines called logical channels are set on the one physical line (transmission line), and image data is multiplexed and transmitted through each of the logical channels. .....The frame signal to be transmitted is provided with a header portion HD and a data portion DT, as shown in a line frame image 30. The image data are inserted to the positions corresponding to the logical channels A to D of the data portion DT, and the image data on the plurality of logical channels A to D are multiplexed and transmitted.

Fujiyama fails to teach nor suggest that the frame signal transmitted by the image transmission apparatus to the image receiving apparatus contains address information on the image transmission apparatus which transmits the image data as described in column 9, line 53 to column 10, line 2 as follows.

FIG. 6 shows an example of the structure of video data (image data). This is the structure of an MPEG-2 TS (transport stream). A video ES (elementary stream) 201 is separated into packet data 202a of a predetermined size, and a PES (packetized elementary stream) header 202b is attached to the head of each packet data so as to form a PES packet 202. The PES header 202b includes a packet start code, an ES rate, etc. The PES packet 202 is further separated into payloads of 184 bytes, and

a TS header of 4 bytes is added to the head of each payload so as to form a TS packet 203 of 188 bytes. The TS header includes a synchronizing byte, a unit starting display bit, and an ES identifier PID. A formatter (not shown) converts the image data stored in the buffer memory 41m to the format shown in FIG. 6, and inputs the format to the multiplexer 41c. The multiplexer 41c inserts the input image data having a TS packet structure to the position corresponding to the logical channel designated by the control unit 41n.

Failure to teach or suggest the above fact makes it impossible for the monitoring system disclosed in the reference to Fujiyama et al., to expect such an advantage, viz., each of the image receiving apparatus can select one or more data transmission apparatuses to establish and maintain line connections with, and reliably receive the transmission data portions from respective data transmission apparatus based on the address information of the transmission apparatus attached in the transmission data portions. The fact that, for example, each of the image transmission apparatus is operative to transmit image data to respective image receiving apparatus through the logical channels fixedly allocated thereto, instead of the address information about the image receiving apparatuses leads to the fact that the image receiving apparatus allocated to the same logical channel but other than the targeted image receiving apparatus may receive the image data. Further, the failure to disclose the address information about the data transmission apparatus attached in the transmission data portions leads to the fact that the image receiving apparatus in the monitoring system disclosed in the reference to Fujiyama cannot select and designate one or more image transmission apparatus based on the image data. This means that the image receiving apparatus disclosed in the reference to Fujiyama is required to have some other means, viz., "center" (see column 8, line 67, column 9, lines 21, 39 to 40, and FIG. 4)" to communicate with and instruct the image transmission apparatus in the case that the targeted image transmission apparatus is currently not allocated to the logical channel fixedly allocated thereto, resulting from the fact that a predetermined number of logical channels are fixedly allocated to the image receiving apparatus but not fixedly allocated to the image transmission apparatuses. In the reference to Fujiyama, the "center" is not explicitly described, but in the description of the prior art, it is described that the center is not constituted by one image receiving apparatus alone, but collectively constituted by a digital exchange and other devices such as, for example, a plurality of image receiving apparatus, transfer devices and control unit provided at a first point (see column 1, lines 54 to 57, column 2, lines 28 to 31). This results in the fact that the monitoring system disclosed in the reference to Fujiyama et al., cannot expect the advantages of the image transmitting and receiving system defined in the amended claim 1, for example, each of the image receiving apparatus can select one or more data transmission apparatuses to establish and maintain line connections with, and reliably receive the transmission data portions from respective data transmission apparatus based on the address information of

the transmission apparatus attached in the transmission data portions.

Further, from the elements (a5) and (a6) forming part of the transmitting and receiving system defined in the amended claim 1, it will be understood that each of the data transmission apparatuses includes a plurality of data transmitting units, the number of data transmitting units corresponds to the number of data receiving apparatuses to which the coded moving image signal data is directed, and a transmission line connection control unit for inputting the one or more transmission data portions generated by the data transmitting units, establishing and maintaining one or more line connections between the data transmitting units and respective data receiving apparatuses in accordance with the address information attached in the one or more transmission data portions so as to transmit the one or more transmission data portions through the network to the respective data receiving apparatuses, and generating line connection state information.

This leads to the fact that each of the data transmitting apparatuses can reliably transmit the coded moving image signal data to a plurality of data receiving apparatuses while minimizing the effect of the condition of the line connection with each of the data receiving apparatuses.

From the elements (b2), (b3), and (b8) forming part of the transmitting and receiving system defined in the amended claim 1, it will be understood that each of the data receiving apparatuses includes a plurality of data receiving units for receiving the one or more transmission data portions to reconstruct coded moving image signal data, the receiving line connection control unit being operative to establish and maintain one or more line connections between the data receiving units and the respective one or more data transmission apparatuses in accordance with the address information attached in the one or more transmission data portions so as to receive the one or more transmission data portions through the network from the respective one or more data transmission apparatuses; a plurality of data receiving units in one-to-one relationship for decompressing and decoding the coded moving image signal data reconstructed by the respective data receiving units to reconstruct one or more moving image signals or synthesized moving image signals, and a receiving control unit for generating an operation request in accordance with the operation instruction inputted by the operation unit, controlling the receiving line connection control unit in accordance with the operation request and the one or more transmission data portions transmitted by the respective one or more data transmission apparatuses.

This leads to the fact that each of the data receiving apparatuses can reliably receive, decompress and decode the transmission data portions received from a plurality of data transmission apparatuses as well as permits an operator to operate the receiving line connection control unit to selectively receive the transmission data portions transmitted by a plurality of data transmission apparatuses while minimizing the effect of the condition of the line connection with each of the data transmission apparatuses.

Fujiyama, however, fails to disclose the elements (a5) and (a6) forming part of the data transmission apparatus defined in the amended claim 1. Further, Fujiyama fails to disclose the elements (b2), (b3), and (b8) forming part of the data receiving apparatus defined in the amended claim 1.

The transmitting and receiving system defined in the amended claim 1 can obtain the additional advantages that (1) each of the data transmitting apparatuses can reliably transmit the coded moving image signal data to a plurality of data receiving apparatuses while minimizing the effect of the condition of the line connection with each of the data receiving apparatuses resulting from the constituent elements (a5) and (a6), and (2) each of the data receiving apparatuses can reliably receive, decompress and decode the transmission data portions received from a plurality of data transmission apparatuses as well as permits an operator to operate the receiving line connection control unit to selectively receive the transmission data portions transmitted by a plurality of data transmission apparatuses while minimizing the effect of the condition of the line connection with each of the data transmission apparatuses resulting from the constituent elements (b2), (b3), and (b8).

On the other hand, in the monitoring system disclosed in the cited reference to Fujiyama, each of the image transmitting apparatuses 1-1 to 1-m comprises only one transmitter 1, and each of the image receiving apparatuses 2-1 to 2-m comprises only one image receiver 2a. This leads to the fact that when, for example, the transmitter 1 fails, the image transmitting apparatus 1-i cannot transmit any image data, and the image receiving apparatus 2-i cannot receive any data from the image transmitting apparatus 1-i. Likewise, for example, the image receiver 2a fails, the image receiving apparatus 2-i cannot receive any data from the image transmitting apparatus 1-i.

Thus, the monitoring system disclosed in the cited reference to Fujiyama cannot expect the advantages of the transmitting and receiving system defined in the amended claim 1, resulting from the fact that Fujiyama fails to disclose the elements (a5) and (a6) forming part of the image receiving apparatus and the elements (b2), (b3), and (b8) forming part of the data receiving apparatus defined in the amended claim 1.

The following argument will be then made about the image transmitting and receiving system defined in the amended claim 1 on the basis of the comparison with the cited reference to Kohno et al.

Kohno discloses a digital communication apparatus comprising: reception means for receiving images generated from a plurality of communication terminals; output means for outputting the images received by said reception means in order to display the images on a display unit as multiple images; and notification means for grasping and notifying a state of reception of the images by said reception means.

Among other things, Kohno, however, fails to disclose the elements (a5), (a6), and (a8) forming part of the data transmission apparatus defined in the amended claim 1.

Accordingly, the image transmitting and receiving system defined in the

amended claim 1 is entirely different in construction from the monitoring system disclosed in the cited reference to Kohno et al.

Failure to teach or suggest the above fact makes it impossible for the digital communication apparatus disclosed in the reference to Kohno et al., to expect such an advantage, viz., each of the image receiving apparatus can select one or more data transmission apparatuses to establish and maintain line connections with, and reliably receive the transmission data portions from respective data transmission apparatus based on the address information of the transmission apparatus attached in the transmission data portions. Neither the cited reference to Fujiyama nor the cited reference to Kohno discloses that the address information includes that of the image transmission apparatus.

Further, Kohno fails to disclose the elements (a5) and (a6) forming part of the image receiving apparatus and (b2), (b3), and (b8) forming part of the data receiving apparatus defined in the amended claim 1. This leads to the fact that the digital communication apparatus disclosed in the cited reference to Kohno, et al. cannot expect the advantages of the transmitting and receiving system defined in the amended claim 1, resulting from the fact that Seeley fails to disclose the elements (a5) and (a6) forming part of the image receiving apparatus and (b2), (b3), and (b8) forming part of the data receiving apparatus defined in the amended claim 1.

It will therefore be appreciated from the foregoing description that the image transmission apparatus defined in the amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of the cited references to Fujiyama et al. in view of Kohno et al.

Claims 2 to 33 are dependent on the amended claim 1 which is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of the cited references to Fujiyama et al. and Kohno et al. It is therefore believed that claims 2 to 33 are patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of the cited references to Fujiyama et al. and Kohno et al based on the same reason as described above.

Likewise, the amended claim 34 is patentably distinguishable over Fujiyama et al. in view of Kohno et al. for the reason as described hereinlater.

The constituent features of the image transmission apparatus defined in the amended claim 34 are as follows:

(a1) a plurality of camera units each for taking a moving picture of an object;

(a2) an image inputting unit operatively connected with said camera units for operating one or more said camera units to input one or more moving pictures taken by said one or more camera units to be converted to one or more moving image signals;

(a3) an image synthesizing unit for selectively passing through said moving image signal and synthesizing more than one moving image signal to generate a synthesized moving image signal on the basis of said one or more moving image signals converted by said image inputting unit;

(a4) a compressing and encoding unit for compressing and encoding said moving image signal passed through by said image synthesizing unit when said image

synthesizing unit passes through one moving image signal and compressing and encoding said synthesized moving image signal generated by said image synthesizing unit when said image synthesizing unit synthesizes more than one moving image signal to generate coded moving image signal data;

(a5) a plurality of data transmitting units for inputting said coded moving image signal data generated by said compressing and encoding unit, generating address information about one or more image receiving apparatus to which said coded moving image signal data is directed, and attaching address information to said coded moving image signal data to generate one or more transmission data portions directed to said respective one or more image receiving apparatus, the number of said data transmitting units corresponding to the number of data receiving apparatuses to which said coded moving image signal data is directed;

(a6) a transmission line connection control unit for inputting said one or more transmission data portions generated by said data transmitting units, establishing and maintaining one or more line connections between said data transmitting units and respective one or more image receiving apparatus in accordance with said address information attached in said one or more transmission data portions so as to transmit said one or more transmission data portions through a network to said respective one or more image receiving apparatus, and generating line connection state information; and

(a7) a transmission control unit for controlling said image inputting unit, said image synthesizing unit, and said transmission line connection control unit in accordance with said line connection state information generated by said transmission line connection control unit,

(a8) each of said data transmitting units of said data transmission apparatus is operative to generate address information about said data transmission apparatus and said data receiving apparatuses to which said coded moving image signal data is directed, and said receiving line connection control unit of said data receiving apparatus is operative to establish a line connection between said data transmission apparatuses and said data receiving units on the basis of said address information of said data transmission apparatuses and output said transmission data portions to said data receiving units in the order that said line connections are established.

From the elements, (a5), (a6), and (a8) forming part of the image transmission apparatus defined in the amended claim 34, it will be understood that the image transmission apparatus defined in the amended claim 34 makes it possible for each of the image receiving apparatus to select one or more data transmission apparatuses from among a plurality of image transmission apparatuses to establish and maintain line connections with, and reliably receive the transmission data portions from the targeted data transmission apparatus based on the address information of the transmission apparatus attached in the transmission data portions, thereby accurately enabling an output unit, such as for example, a monitoring unit forming part of the image receiving

apparatus to display the targeted moving picture thereon.

Among other things, Fujiyama and Kohno fail to disclose the elements (a5), (a6), and (a8) forming part of the image transmission apparatus defined in the amended claim 34.

This leads to the fact that the image transmission apparatus defined in the amended claim 34 is entirely different in construction from the monitoring system disclosed in the cited reference to Fujiyama et al and the digital communication apparatus disclosed in the cited reference to Kohno et al. The fact that the construction of the image transmission apparatus defined in the amended claim 34 is entirely different from that of the monitoring system disclosed in the cited reference to Fujiyama et al and the digital communication apparatus disclosed in the cited reference to Kohno et al. leads to the fact that that the above function and advantages attained by the image transmission apparatus defined in the amended claim 34 cannot be expected from the monitoring system disclosed in the cited reference to Fujiyama et al nor the digital communication apparatus disclosed in the cited reference to Kohno et al.

It will therefore be appreciated from the foregoing description that the image transmission apparatus defined in the amended claim 34 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of the cited references to Fujiyama et al. and Kohno et al.

Claims 36, 38, and 39 are dependent on the amended claim 34 which is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of the cited references to Fujiyama et al. and Kohno et al. It is therefore believed that claims 36, 38, and 39 are patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of the cited references to Fujiyama et al. and Kohno et al.

Likewise, the amended claim 35 is patentably distinguishable over Fujiyama et al. in view of Kohno et al. for the reason as described hereinlater.

The constituent features of the image receiving apparatus defined in the amended claim 35 are as follows:

(b1) a receiving line connection control unit for receiving said one or more transmission data portions transmitted by said respective one or more image transmission apparatuses;

(b2) a plurality of data receiving units for receiving said one or more transmission data portions to reconstruct coded moving image signal data, said receiving line connection control unit operative to establish and maintain one or more line connections between said data receiving units and said respective one or more image transmission apparatuses in accordance with said address information attached in said one or more transmission data portions so as to receive said one or more transmission data portions through said network from said respective one or more image transmission apparatuses;

(b3) a plurality of decompressing and decoding units electrically connected with said respective data receiving units in one-to-one relationship for decompressing and decoding said coded moving image signal data reconstructed by said respective data

receiving units to reconstruct one or more moving image signals or synthesized moving image signals.

(b4) an image synthesizing unit for selectively passing through said moving image signal or said synthesized moving image signal and synthesizing more than one moving image signal or synthesized moving image signal to generate a synthesized moving image signal on the basis of said one or more moving image signals or synthesized moving image signals reconstructed by said decompressing and decoding units;

(b5) a data outputting unit for outputting said moving image signal or said synthesized moving image signal passed through by said image synthesizing unit when said image synthesizing unit passes through said moving image signal or said synthesized moving image signal, and outputting said synthesized moving image signal synthesized by said image synthesizing unit when said image synthesizing unit generates said synthesized moving image signal;

(b6) a monitoring unit having a screen for selectively displaying one moving picture on said screen on the basis of said moving image signal outputted by said data outputting unit, and displaying a plurality of moving pictures on said screen on the basis of said synthesized moving image signal outputted by said data outputting unit;

(b7) an operation unit for inputting an operation instruction therethrough; and

(b8) a receiving control unit for generating an operation request in accordance with said operation instruction inputted by said operation unit, controlling said receiving line connection control unit in accordance with said operation request and said one or more transmission data portions transmitted by said respective one or more image transmission apparatuses,

(b9) said address information includes information about said data transmission apparatus which has transmitted said transmission data portion, and said data receiving apparatuses to which said coded moving image signal data is directed, and said receiving line connection control unit of said data receiving apparatus is operative to establish a line connection between said data transmission apparatuses and said data receiving units on the basis of said address information of said data transmission apparatuses and output said transmission data portions to said data receiving units in the order that said line connections are established.

From the elements (b2), (b3), (b8), and (b9) forming part of the image receiving apparatus defined in the amended claim 35, it will be understood that the image receiving apparatus defined in the amended claim 35 can select one or more data transmission apparatuses to establish and maintain line connections with, and reliably receive the transmission data portions from respective data transmission apparatus based on the address information of the transmission apparatus attached in the transmission data portions, thereby accurately enabling the monitoring unit to display the targeted moving picture thereon.

Among other things, Fujiyama and Kohno, however, fail to disclose the

elements (b2), (b3), (b8), and (b9) forming part of the image receiving apparatus defined in the amended claim 35.

This leads to the fact that the image receiving apparatus defined in the amended claim 35 is entirely different in construction from the monitoring system disclosed in the cited reference to Fujiyama et al. and the digital communication apparatus disclosed in the cited reference to Kohno et al. The fact that the construction of the image receiving apparatus defined in the amended claim 35 is entirely different from that of the monitoring system disclosed in the cited reference to Fujiyama et al and the digital communication apparatus disclosed in the cited reference to Kohno et al. leads to the fact that that the above function and advantages attained by the image receiving apparatus defined in the amended claim 35 cannot be expected from the monitoring system disclosed in the cited reference to Fujiyama et al nor the digital communication apparatus disclosed in the cited reference to Kohno et al.

It will therefore be appreciated from the foregoing description that the image receiving apparatus defined in the amended claim 35 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of the cited references to Fujiyama et al. and Kohno et al.

Claims 37, 40, and 41 are dependent on the amended claim 35 which is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of the cited references to Fujiyama et al. and Kohno et al. It is therefore believed that claims 37, 40, and 41 are patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of the cited references to Fujiyama et al. and Kohno et al.

Claims 42 to 74 are defined as method claims respectively corresponding to claims 1 to 33. Claims 42 to 74 are patentably distinguishable over the cited references to Fujiyama et al. and Kohno et al. for the reasons that the amended claim 42 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references to Fujiyama et al. and Kohno et al. Claims 75, 77, 79, and 80 are defined as method claims respectively corresponding to claims 34, 36, 38, and 39. Likewise, claims 75, 77, 79, and 80 are patentably distinguishable over the cited references to Fujiyama et al. and Kohno et al. for the reasons that the amended claim 34 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references to Fujiyama et al. and Kohno et al. Likewise, claims 76, 78, 81, and 82 are defined as method claims respectively corresponding to claims 35, 37, 40, and 41. Claims 76, 78, 81, and 82 are patentably distinguishable over the cited references to Fujiyama et al. and Kohno et al. for the reasons that the amended claim 35 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references to Fujiyama et al. and Kohno et al. The claim 84 includes the limitations defined in the amended claim 1 except for the fact that the synthesizing unit 22 and the synthesizing unit 56 are excluded. It is therefore believed that the claim 84 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure of the cited references to Fujiyama et al. and Kohno et al based on the same reason as described above.

For the above reasons it is believed that the application and claims as amended is now in proper condition for allowance, and reconsideration and early allowance of the

amended application is respectfully solicited. In any case, the Amendment should be entered as it reduces the issues in a potential appeal.

If any fees are required by this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 34196.

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